

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-5 have been rejected. Claims 6-9 have been objected to.

Claims 1-5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of United States Patent No. 5,267,650 to Gibilisco in view of United States Patent No. 6,662,081 to Jacober et al. The Examiner has indicated, however, that claims 6-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously provided in claims 2-6. Claims 2-6 have been canceled, and claim 7 has been amended so that it now depends from claim 1. Claims 7 and 8 have also been amended to correct minor informalities. Please remove the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and enter the allowance of claims 1, and 7-9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard W. Goldstein
Reg. No. 36,527
Attorney For Applicant(s)
2071 Clove Road
Staten Island, New York 10304
(718) 727-9780